

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Case No. 09792909-5355, the specification of which

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I do not know and do not believe this invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and I believe that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as identified below:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Date _____

March 8, 2001

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Date _____

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the application takes in:

(i) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) asserting an argument of patentability.

A *prima facie* case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden of proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

If no priority is claimed, I have identified all foreign patent applications filed prior to this application:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number

Country

Date

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, David W. Maher (Reg. 20,107), Kevin W. Guynn (No. 29,927), Jeffrey F. Craft (Reg. 30,044), David R. Metzger (Reg. 32,919), D. Andrew Floam (Reg. 34,597), Michael Kiklis (Reg. 38,939), Marc E. Hankin (Reg. 38,908), Jordan A. Sigale (Reg. 39,028), Michael A. Molano (Reg. 39,777), Michael T. Marrah (Reg. 40,718), Jean C. Edwards (Reg. 41,728), Raymond J. Ho (Reg. 41,838), Mark H. Krietzman (Reg. 41,128), Jennifer H. Hammond (Reg. 41,814), Vincent Tassinari (Reg. 42,179), Marina N. Saito (Reg. 42,121), John F. Nethery (Reg. 42,928), Alison P. Schwartz (Reg. 43,863), Eric N. Kohli (Reg. 43,726), Matthew M. Catlett (Reg. 44,067), John F. Griffith (Reg. 44,137), Gregory B. Gulliver (Reg. 44,138) Christopher P. Rauch (Reg. 45,034), Francisco A. Rubio-Campos (Reg. 45,358), Brian J. Gill (Reg. P46,727); Donald Carley (Reg. 47,471), Thomas J. Burton (Reg. 47,464) and Shashank Upadhye (Reg. 4,209), with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL

P.O. Box 061080

Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080

Telephone 312/876-8000

Facsimile 312/876-3974

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor **MASAKI HARA**

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence **Kanagawa, Japan**

Citizenship **Japan**

Post Office Address **c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome**

Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

Full name of second inventor **TAKUYA MAKINO**

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence **Chiba, Japan**

Citizenship **Japan**

Post Office Address **c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome**

Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

Full name of third inventor **KAZUHITO HORI**

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence **Kanagawa, Japan**

Citizenship **Japan**

Post Office Address **c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome**

Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

Full name of fourth inventor KAZUHIRO HANE

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence Miyagi, Japan

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address 21-5, Nakayama 9-chome, Aoba-ku

Sendai-shi, Miyagi, Japan

Full name of fifth inventor MINORU SASAKI

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence Miyagi, Japan

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address 3-3, Kaigamori 6-chome, Aoba-ku

Sendai-shi, Miyagi, Japan

10092711.030702